

British voters flee Conservatives

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party suffered a humiliating defeat on Friday after voters, determined to take revenge on the deeply unpopular Prime Minister John Major, inflicted defeat in five parliamentary by-elections. In the most bruising loss for Mr. Major, the centrist Liberal Democrats won the seat of Eastleigh in the 1992 general election, relegating the Conservatives to third place. In the Opposition parties claimed the results were a devastating indictment of the government, in power since 1979, and increased pressure on the results were very disappointing. Mr. Major's job was safe, and it would lead the party into the next election, due by mid-1997. "Mr. Major has the mandate for parliament — that's the mandate which counts," said Mr. Fowler. I do not see the need for any instant policy changes. Mr. Major's popularity has been hit by hefty tax increases which took effect in April. U-turns on key elements of government policy, the after-effects of a two-year recession and a series of headline-grabbing scandals involving senior Conservatives.

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BEIRUT

TWO EVENING FLIGHTS

AS OF 18TH MAY 1994

IN ADDITION TO THE

FOUR EXISTING MORNING FLIGHTS

WITH ADEQUATE SPACE FOR CARGO

ROYAL JORDANIAN

YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Ibrahimi pursues Yemen peace bid unfazed by war

Combined agency despatches

UNDAUNTED by the unremitting warfare, veteran U.N. peace broker Lakhdar Ibrahimi Friday continued his efforts to mediate an end to Yemen's five-week-old civil war.

Radio Sanaa said he left the northern Yemeni capital "disappointed" by violations of the ceasefire he negotiated the previous day between northern government forces and the southern separatists.

However, Mr. Ibrahimi's spokesman said the man who negotiated an end to Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war was unfazed by the persistent fighting.

Spokesman Nejib Friji said that in the Lebanese conflict Mr. Ibrahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, "witnessed dozens of violations of ceasefires but that didn't prevent his mission from being ... most successful."

Yemen erupted into war on May 4 after a nine-month power struggle between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh crippled the country.

Northern Yemeni forces backed by heavy armour on Friday tried to punch through defence lines around Aden, meeting a barrage of shellfire from the city's southern defenders.

The black smoke from incoming northern rounds rose over shantytowns 10

kilometres northwest of Aden outskirts, where the northern army is trying to seize control of power and water supply lines from heavily-outnumbered defenders.

A northern official source said earlier in Sanaa that the northern forces were holding to the ceasefire pledge made for Thursday night despite what he called southern violations.

The ceasefire, the second to be issued in a week, was made allowing talks between President Ali Saleh and Mr. Ibrahimi.

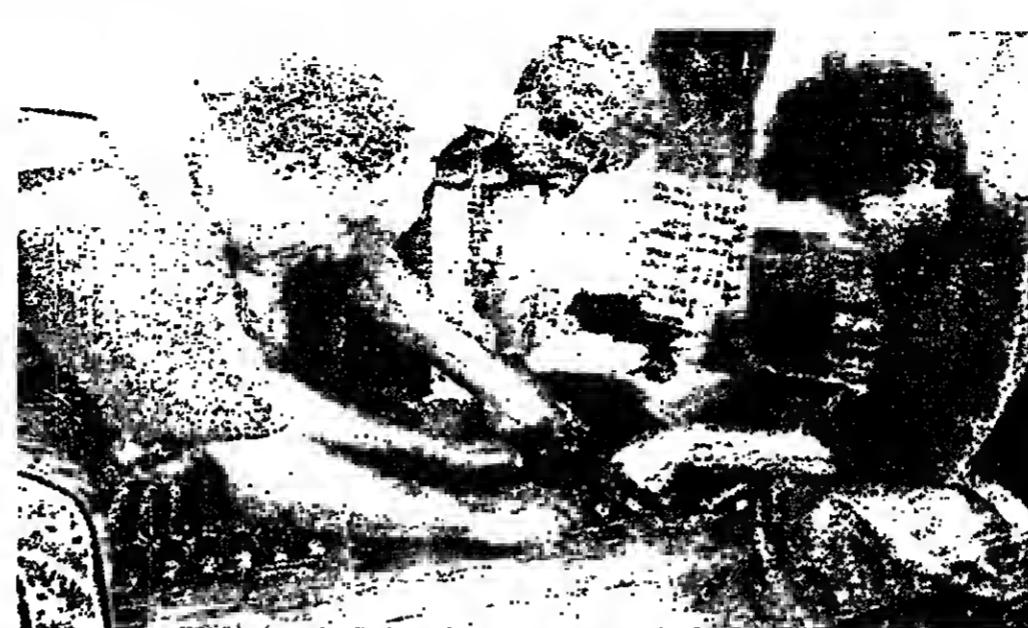
Both sides accused each other of violating the ceasefire.

During his two-day visit, Mr. Ibrahimi conferred separately with the U.S. and French ambassadors and the Russian charge d'affaires at their request. He also met the ambassadors of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Libya, the U.N. spokesman said. Mr. Ibrahimi also held talks with representatives of 22 political parties in Sanaa and with parliament members.

Sanaa radio said parliament speaker Sheikh Abdullah Ben Al Ahmar informed Mr. Ibrahimi that "all what concerns Yemenis is unity, unity or death."

The radio quoted Mr. Ibrahimi as telling the deputies that the world community was "concerned over what is taking place in Yemen. The (Yemeni) brothers are requested to over-

(Continued on page 5)



Southern militiamen prepare ammunition under a shelter on the front line of Saber on Friday (AFP photo)

Jordan has 'clear vision' to boost ties with Syria, will not hurry into blocs

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has a "clear vision" for raising the level of economic and political coordination with Syria but pragmatism, not emotions, will define any steps the Kingdom will take in that direction, political sources said.

Parliamentary sources said the idea of closer cooperation among Amman, Beirut and Damascus was informally brought up by lawmakers in their talks with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri during his visit to Jordan in May. They said Mr. Berri communicated his talks with the Jordanian deputies to Foreign Minister Faris Bouez who raised the subject when he visited the Kingdom last month.

Other sources said Syria, which does not have an ambassador in Amman, had floated the proposal for the alliance to counter the negative impact on the economies of the three countries of the Palestinian

The Syrian delegation will be headed by Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi and will

(Continued on page 5)

Meeting postponed

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs Talaat Al Hassan announced late Friday that a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee scheduled to open here today has been postponed to a later date.

The minister, who made the announcement in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said: "Our brethren in Syria have expressed their wish to postpone the meeting."

The minister said Jordan was "keen on maintaining coordination at the highest level with Syria based on the deep strategic relations which bind the two countries and which His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad are keen to strengthen."

PLO gets \$42m; Israel bars Jerusalem as autonomy base

PARIS (Agencies) — The Palestinians won limited immediate aid from international donors on Friday to pay their new police force and start up self-government in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, with a pledge of more cash soon.

The minister stressed that the borders were only part of a peace agreement, adding that the Kingdom had to know the status of Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees before signing.

"We will not sign a peace agreement with Israel until we see what happens with the Arab boycott against Israel," Dr. Anani said.

He reiterated that the Kingdom would not enter negotiations on the economic issues until the borders with Israel were agreed upon according to the British mandate boundaries drawn between Transjordan and Palestine in 1922.

Jordan and Israel agreed in Washington to form a joint commission which would begin drawing these borders according to the mandate boundaries next month in Jordan and Israel.

The Kingdom, referring to the 1922 boundaries, maintains that Israel has occupied a total of 360 square kilometres of its land in the south between 1967

and 1969, and two square kilometres in the north, which it intends to take back when the demarcation line is drawn up.

Dr. Anani, however, said that Jordan will not negotiate with Israel its borders with the West Bank since it did not consider these territories as Israel's.

"We will draw our borders with the West Bank not with the Israelis, but with hopefully the Palestinian state," he said.

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Full text of Jordan-Israel agreement to start talks

Agence France Presse

AMMAN — Here is the full text of three documents signed Tuesday by Israel and Jordan at bilateral talks in Washington, obtained by AFP here.

The documents were signed by the head of the Israeli negotiating team, Eliakim Rubinstein, and his Jordanian counterpart, Fayed Tarawneh following two days of talks.

The documents make up a sub-agenda, outlining in detail issues set out in the joint Israel-Jordan common agenda for peace talks agreed by the two sides on Sept. 14, 1994 in Washington.

The sub-agenda, which lays down joint Israeli-Jordanian projects, will form the basis for further bilateral talks which are expected to take place next month in either Israel or Jordan.

The Middle East peace process

The bilateral peace negotiations

The Jordan-Israel track

Common sub-agenda

Group A: Water, Energy and the Environment

In their pursuit of achieving the goal of the Jordan-Israel track of negotiations, Jordan and Israel have identified the components of their bilateral negotiations and have listed them under section B of the common agenda. Item B (7) addresses the phasing of the discussion, agreement and implementation of the agenda items including appropriate mechanisms for negotiations in specific fields. It is understood the two parties shall cooperate to achieve the goal.

Resolution of the issues of the conflict is to result in mitigation of the adverse impacts and damages resulting from the conflict.

Items of this sub-agenda listed hereunder respond to the intent of detailed discussions over the various issues in the subjects of water, energy, the environment and the Jordan Rift Valley, and provide practical steps to fulfil the objectives of items B (3), B (6)-A and B (7) of the common agenda.

I Surface water basins

A: Negotiation of mutual recognition of the rightful water allocations of the two sides in Jordan River and Yarmouk River waters with mutually acceptable quality.

Securing the unimpeded flow of the mutually recognised rightful allocations of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Israel respectively in Jordan and Yarmouk River waters with the above agreed quality through agreed conveyance systems.

B: Restoration of water quality in the Jordan River below lake Tiberias to reasonably usable standards.

C: Protection of water quality.

II Shared groundwater aquifers

A: Renewable fresh water aquifers — southern area between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea.

B: Fossil aquifers — area between the Dead Sea and the Red Sea.

C: Protection of water quality of both.

III Alleviation of water shortage

A: Development of water resources.

B: Municipal water shortages.

C: Irrigation water shortages.

IV: Potentials of future bilateral cooperation, within a regional context where appropriate.

A — General

1. Nature protection, natural resources and biodiversity.
2. Air quality control, including general standards, criteria and all types of man-made hazardous radiation, fumes and gases.
3. Marine environment and coastal resources management.
4. Waste management including hazardous wastes.
5. Pest control.
6. Abatement and control of hazards to the environment.
7. Deserification.
8. Public awareness and environmental education.
9. Environmental management tools.
10. Natural disasters.
11. Indigenous energy resources development.
12. Energy generation, conventional and non-conventional, water needs and environmental considerations.
13. Electricity grid connection and oil pipelines.
14. Regional charters.

B — Jordan Rift Valley

1. Red Sea-Dead Sea canal.
2. Dead Sea chemical industries.
3. Management of water basins.
4. Development of geothermal resources.
5. Mining and mineral resources exploitation.
6. Industrial export processing zones.
7. Transportation facilities and infrastructures.
8. Agricultural development and operations.
9. Archaeology and tourism.
10. Inter-disciplinary activities in water, environment and energy.

The Jordan-Israel common sub-agenda

Security

In their pursuit of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and in fulfilment of the principle of respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the states in the region Jordan and Israel, in their negotiations leading to a treaty of peace as stipulated in article C of the common agenda, have identified the components of their negotiations and have listed them under the section on security, based on Article B (2) of the common agenda, as follows:

1. The article "refraining from actions or activities by either side that may adversely affect the security of the other or may prejudice the final outcome of the negotiations," refers to the period throughout the negotiations leading to a peace treaty, as well as to the future relations between the parties under the treaty. It is agreed that negotiations should encompass a comprehensive range of security issues and should develop principles and means to deal with such issues.

2. Mutually agreed upon security arrangements.

(i) Discussion on security arrangements that can be implemented between the two states, including along the defined international boundary between Jordan and Israel based on article B (5) of the common agenda.

(ii) Implementation mechanisms within a defined time frame will be agreed upon.

3. Threats to security resulting from all kinds of terrorism.

In fulfilment of the principle of "non-intervention or interference in internal affairs" and to preserve the stability of the peaceful relations, and security arrangements on the international boundary between Jordan and Israel, the following procedure is agreed:

(i) Identification of all possible terrorism threats, including cross-border terrorism and subversion.

(ii) Discussions on principles and means to deal with such threats.

4. Security Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)

Respecting and complying with the agreed international boundary between Israel and Jordan, as defined in article B (5) of the common agenda, the following is agreed:

- (i) Discussions on military and other CBMs that will strengthen the agreed security arrangements and will promote peaceful relations.
- (ii) Discussions on multilateral arms control confidence and security building measures, in the areas of exchange of military information and activities, that have a bilateral application.
- (iii) Discussions on possible implementation mechanisms based upon a time frame.

5. Agreement on mutually satisfactory measures will form part of a treaty of peace.

6. Arms control and regional security.

Further to the agreements reached on security arrangements and various CBMs, in areas around the defined international boundary between Jordan and Israel, the parties will develop mechanisms for coordination on issues pertaining to arms control and regional security, in accordance with relevant agreements reached in the multilateral working group on arms control and regional security.

The Jordan-Israel Common Sub-Agenda

Borders and territorial matters

In their pursuit of achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, and in fulfilment of the principle of respect for the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the states in the region Jordan and Israel, in their negotiations leading to a treaty of peace as stipulated in Article C of the common agenda, have identified the components of their negotiations on borders and territorial matters, based on article B (5) of the common agenda, as follows:

The parties will achieve the settlement of territorial matters and agreed definitive delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel with reference to the boundary definition under the mandate, without prejudice to the status of any territories that came under Israeli military government control in 1967. Both parties will respect and comply with the above international boundary, preserve the peaceful coexistence along the boundary, creating a living, warm reality for the benefit of the people of both sides.

The following procedure is agreed, and is to be applied in the negotiations to be held in the region.

(A) — Agreement to establish a joint mechanism (a boundary sub-commission of the commission on security, boundaries, water, environment and other related issues), whose objective will be to assist in arriving at a settlement of borders and territorial matters.

(B) — The sub-commission will initially prescribe the modalities of preparing joint maps of the region of the boundary and any additional material, including, as appropriate, a joint survey for this purpose.

The joint maps shall be in English and shall reflect physical features of the areas along the boundaries between the two states.

(C) — The sub-commission will further advise the respective parties on the ways to reach agreement as to the process set forth in article B (5) of the common agenda.

(D) — Once agreement is reached the sub-commission will be responsible for the preparation of the procedures for delimitation and demarcation of the international boundary between Jordan and Israel, and will perform those tasks.

(E) — The proposed mechanism will work in close conjunction with the security sub-commission in order to ensure that coordination takes place. This will facilitate more detailed discussions, taking place in parallel, on all issues pertaining to bilateral security arrangements on and in the areas close to the defined international boundary based on article B (5) of the common agenda.

(F) — The negotiations on the mutually satisfactory solutions of the boundary issues will be finalised in a treaty of peace, as stipulated in Article C of the common agenda.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Majority of Israelis do not trust Rabin — poll

TEL AVIV (R) — A majority of Israelis do not trust Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's handling of peace talks with the Palestinians, a poll release on Friday said. The Haonach Smith Research Centre survey found 54 per cent of Israelis questioned responded negatively when asked: "To what extent do you trust Yitzhak Rabin's handling of the continuation of negotiations with the Palestinians?" Nineteen per cent said they trusted Mr. Rabin very much, 18 per cent pretty much, 17 per cent not so much, 20 per cent did not trust him, 17 per cent did not trust him at all and nine per cent had no opinion. The telephone poll, conducted on June 5, solicited opinions from 505 Israeli Jews.

Qadafi offered Israel to reduce extremism'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadafi contacted Israel in 1990, offering to reduce his backing for "extremism" if Israel persuaded the United States to ease its sanctions against Libya, an Israeli newspaper reported Thursday. Israel shelved the offer, the Haaretz Daily said. Haaretz quoted a book called "The Big Misses — Political Opportunities and Chances for Peace that Israel Missed," just published by a former secret service agent, Rafi Siton. Colonel Qadafi made the offer through an Israeli "economic figure," Haaretz quoted Mr. Siton as writing. He was looking for ways to lift sanctions imposed by the United States because he was harbouring suspects in the 1988 explosion of a Pan Am airplane over Lockerbie. Mr. Siton said the economic figure got the information to then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who referred it to Israel's secret service, the Mossad. The Mossad shelved it, Mr. Siton said. Mr. Shamir told Israel army radio he did not remember the case. "Muammar Qadafi is known to be strange, a lot of strange things happen, but I don't remember this," he said.

10,000 to guard Arafat visit

TEL AVIV (AP) — Yasser Arafat will be greeted by an unusually heavy security detail of some 10,000 Israeli police if he tries to visit Jerusalem later this month, Israel Radio reported Friday. Mr. Arafat is expected after June 15 to visit the self-rule areas of Jericho in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He is also likely to try to visit Jerusalem to pray at Muslim shrines and visit Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters. Israeli right-wingers opposed to peace-making with the PLO are planning massive protests for Mr. Arafat. "We are prepared for all possibilities while he (Arafat) is here, for protests that could occur... I believe we will have to concentrate a lot of forces," police chief Assaf Hefetz told the radio. He did not give figures, but the radio said a force of more than 10,000 would be stationed in the Jerusalem area. It said the size of the force was unprecedented for a visiting diplomat, noting that precincts in the Tel Aviv area and elsewhere would be nearly emptied. Jerusalem's right-wing dominated city council published an advertisement in Friday newspapers urging Israelis to come and demonstrate against Mr. Arafat when he arrives.

Israeli soldiers tortured animals in Gaza'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army has opened an inquiry into allegations from a soldier that his comrades tortured animals on the Gaza Strip, the military spokesman said Friday. A young conscript has accused soldiers based at the Jabalia refugee camp of killing a cat he had cared for. He complained to Israel's Let Animals Live society which took up the case with the authorities. Etty Altman, spokeswoman for the society, said the soldier had related several torture cases including the cat he had rescued. "The other soldiers found him, cut his whiskers and played football with him before electrocuting him," Mr. Altman said. "Then they tied him to a plastic bag and threw him off an observation post." The soldier charged that officers ignored him. One officer trapped him, smashed it against the wall and skinned it with his penknife, he said. He said he had heard that his unit had a reputation for cruelty toward animals before being posted to Jabalia. "The word was the soldiers caught cats, cut out their eyes and put the eyeballs in jars," Mr. Altman said. She added that it was not the first report reaching the society "that soldiers used animals for target practice" during exercises. "I understand that combat soldiers need to wind down, but this is a very strange way of doing it," said Ms. Altman. Gaza military commander General Doron Almog ordered the investigation, the spokesman said.

Lebanese judge accuses 4 of killing U.N. soldier

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's military prosecutor accused four men of killing a U.N. peacekeeper in South Lebanon last week, Beirut's state-owned television station said on Friday. Tele Liban said Judge Nasri Lahoud ordered a military investigation into the June 3 killing of a Fijian soldier and the wounding of another serving with the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the southern village of Qana. Judge Lahoud ordered a judge to interrogate the suspects who are in custody. Security sources had said the peacekeepers in Qana were attacked by Hezbollah guerrillas after a fighter was killed in a shoot-out with a Fijian patrol. A Fijian soldier, wounded in the first clash, died four days later from his wound. It was not immediately known if the four suspects were Hezbollah members.

More fires consume Syria's grain fields

DAMASCUS (R) — A huge fire broke out in five Syrian fields in northern Syria and destroyed 8,400 square metres of cereals in the second fire this week in Syria's grain-growing area in the north, officials said on Friday. They said firefighters were called from nearby cities and oil companies operating in the area to help control the fires which raged all day on Thursday. The papers did not say what caused the fire but officials said sparks flying from moving machines caused fires in four grain fields during an intense heat wave earlier this week.

Arafat entry to Jericho to be decided on June 12

By Marwan M. Shishani
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A final decision as to when Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will enter Jericho and Gaza may be taken by June 12, PLO officials in Tunis told the Jordan Times Friday.

"June 18 is again being floated, but apparently there will be a vote among Tunis-based members of the Palestinian National Authority on Sunday," said a Tunis-based PLO official, who asked to remain anonymous.

The situation as it stands will be studied and a vote will be taken on when the leadership returns," said the PLO official. "There have been too many dates set and reset. It is utterly confusing."

PLO sources in Amman said in May that Mr. Arafat would not enter Jericho or Gaza before the convening of the conference of Organisation of

Arafat is going to Jericho, but when?

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AFP) — Arafat fever is soaring ever higher as the expected date of Palestinian leader's triumphant entry into Jericho neared, only to bring a fresh crop of reports further delaying his return.

Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, a confidant of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, issued the latest clarification.

"Before the 19th of June," Mr. Freij declared Friday. And he should know, he is after all "minister" for tourism in the Palestinian National Authority.

West Bank PLO leader Faisal Husseini had his own estimate of the "second part of June."

At the end of May, everyone agreed it would be early June, well mid-June. June 15 to be precise, said Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

However, do not hold your breath because they will not be the first, probably not even the

last, to be proved wrong.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders have confidently announced the forthcoming programme over and over again since they signed the declaration of principles for autonomy on Sept. 13.

October, November, December, January... June and he's still coming soon.

Mr. Arafat even threw a spanner in the works himself this week, warning that he would not be going anywhere unless donor countries stamped up a substantial amount of the cash they promised for self-rule.

"How can I enter my country when the money situation is terrible. I have to have something in hand to lift the burden off my struggling people," Mr. Arafat moaned.

Some voices questioned such tactics. After a life-time devoted to the fight to return home, surely Mr. Arafat should at least pay a fleeting visit now the gates are wide open.

A strong rumour spread that he did not want his big day overshadowed by World Cup football so it was either before June 17 or late July.

Kamal Mahmoud, a Jericho taxi driver, urged "the old

man" to get a move on.

"Arafat shouldn't delay his arrival too long because we need to get things straightened out," he said.

"He must come to see everything on the ground, be it

an open field or a closed

area," he said.

Abdul Nasser Hussein, 21, a

prisoner released Friday, predicted a huge turnout. "All the

Palestinian people will come to

see him."

But if Mr. Arafat delays much more he might even be dead, if certain Israeli have

their way.

A former chief rabbi of

Israel is spearheading calls to



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and other senior officials

Thursday attend a ceremony marking the Arab Army Day (Petra photo)

Jordan marks Arab Army Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The King on Friday observed the anniversary of the Founding of the Arab Army and the Great Arab Revolt against foreign domination led by Sharif Hussein Ben Ali, the Sharif of Mecca in 1916.

On the eve of the anniversary His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, attended a special celebration at Raghdan Palace where he presented medals to several officers in the armed forces, the public security, the general intelligence and civil defence, in recognition of their outstanding services and their distinguished performance.

Present at the ceremony were His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Abdullah, Prince Hashem, and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Gen. Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh and other senior officials and high ranking army officers.

Following the ceremony, King Hussein visited the Martyrs Monument in Amman accompanied by Prince Hassan, Prince Abdullah and Prince Hashem and senior government, army and parliament officials.

Following the formal welcome ceremony which included a 21-gun salute, King Hussein recited verses of the Holy Koran, watered an olive

tree of the Martyrs Monument and signed a visitors register.

The ceremony was followed by a formal reception held at Al Hussein Youth City where the King met with well-wishers from the Armed Forces, the general intelligence, the public security and civil defence, as well as the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) stationed in Jordan and several military attaches at embassies in Amman.

King Hussein later attended a lunch hosted by Gen. Kaabneh at Al Hussein Youth City attended by members of the Royal Family and senior government officials and high ranking army officers.

On the anniversary, the King received cables of good wishes from heads of various Jordanian organisations.

German deputies end visits to Jordan, Iraq

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-member German parliamentary delegation headed by Hans Sterchen, head of the federal parliament's foreign affairs committee, Friday headed back to Bonn following visits to Jordan and Iraq which they described as extremely successful.

"We made the trip to Baghdad at the invitation of the Iraqi government in order to assess the political, economic, humanitarian and social situation in Iraq and our discussions with the Iraqi president and other government leaders including Tareq Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, were extremely successful," said Erich Riedel, a delegation member.

Mr. Riedel told the Jordan Times shortly before his departure for home that the German government will take steps to provide humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people who have been suffering as a result of the U.N.-imposed sanctions on the country following its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

He said Germany would be flying more sick Iraqi children for treatment at German hos-

pitals and will release some of the frozen Iraqi assets to pay for medical equipment and medicines to be despatched urgently to the Iraqi people, mainly benefiting the sick children in Iraq, said Mr. Riedel.

Declining to assess the amounts of frozen Iraqi assets is expected to be released for this purpose, Mr. Riedel recalled that the German government had earlier hosted other sick Iraqi children for treatment in Germany, some of whom, he said, have already been repatriated.

Mr. Riedel, who is also secretary of state at the Ministry of Economics in the federal government and head of a foreign committee group charged with caring for children, said the sick, elderly and children in particular are in desperate need of help.

Mr. Sterchen and his group, who earlier held talks with the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament here, said his team made an assessment of the political situation in the entire Gulf region and the Middle East in talks with Mr. Aziz and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"We have found the Iraqi government extremely coop-

erative and willing to respond to the requirements and demands of the international community in order to end the sanctions," said Mr. Sterchen.

Adding that the discussions were wide-ranging, covering all political, economic and humanitarian issues, Mr. Sterchen said that Baghdad hotels, especially Al Rashid Hotel, were filled with visitors from Western countries including French and American trade, economic and political delegations who were concluding trade deals with the Iraqi government and exploring various possibilities of trade with Iraq after the sanctions have been lifted.

"We are going to file a detailed report to our government concerning the situation in Iraq and the outcome of this visit, and we hope that very positive steps would be taken in all directions," added Mr. Sterchen.

On his discussions with the Jordanian parliamentarians before the trip to Iraq, Mr. Sterchen said they covered German-Jordanian ties and the Middle East question as well as the prospects for peace in the region.

Disi feasibility

(Continued from page 10)

Jordan pumps around 70 to 75 million cubic metres from the aquifer, mainly for agriculture, but also for domestic consumption and industrial purposes in Aqaba and other small towns in the area, according to Haiste/Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick, which is working under a grant from the British government's Overseas Development Authority (ODA).

Several major industries are located in the south. These include a fertiliser plant and a thermal power station in addition to several other projects expected to be operational by 1996.

The British firm did not provide a definite figure for the reserves at the aquifer but implicitly acknowledged the problems posed by the Saudi pumping, saying "an unknown element that will influence decisions will be the future amount of use by Saudi Arabia of the same aquifer."

Shamim Puri, the consultants' project manager of the study, said the estimates of the reserves of the aquifer would be provided in the final stage of the study, which is expected to be completed before the end of the year.

"However, we have established that another 75 to 75 million cubic metres could be pumped from Disi in addition

to the present 70 to 70 million cubic metres," he told the Jordan Times.

The consultants, in an interim report released at a presentation at the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), said "significant water resources are present in the Rumi (Disi) aquifer..."

"Although the resource is large and of good quality, it will have a limited life span," the report said. "Its development must therefore be carried out with great caution and within the framework of a national water strategy."

It suggested the "eventual redeployment of the water from its present use for agriculture to municipal demands."

"This can be done gradually, hand in hand with a modest new scheme which will pump more water from the aquifer," it said, adding that "double the amount being pumped from could be taken in the immediate future."

Several options have been studied, but the final strategy should be based on a decision as to the envisaged period of pumping from the aquifer, it said, adding "at present the planning horizons chosen are: 10 years to the future, 50 years and 100 years."

The ODA has provided around £1 million in equipment and material to finance the Haiste/Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick study.

The area covered under the study lies between Aqaba

and Mudawara, northwards as far as Ras Al Naqab and Jafra, up to the Saudi border, said a fact sheet provided by the consultants.

"The planned total drilling metrage is 15,300 metres of boreholes at 24 locations," it said. "Around 12,000 metres have been completed so far."

"Testing work includes pumping water from these boreholes, some to depths of 1,500 metres, and carrying out sophisticated measurements, using computer-controlled loggers and instruments. Pumping tests are awaited at most test sites."

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Gulf crisis compensation claimants expected to receive payments soon

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian claimants to compensation for death and injuries suffered in the Gulf crisis are expected to be paid soon following the approval of their applications by a Geneva-based U.N. panel, informed sources said Friday.

U.N. sources confirmed that the U.N. Compensation Committee had communicated to the Jordanian government on the acceptance and rejection of applications. They said the formal notifications were issued Wednesday.

Clear details of how many applications were accepted were not immediately available in Amman because of the two-day holiday weekend.

Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Nayef Hadid said the ministry had not received the U.N. notifications. But it was expected that the ministry would have the completed details as and when the government gets

back to work on Saturday.

According to the U.N. Compensation Committee, the bulk of the applications came from Jordanians and most the rest from Kuwaitis and Egyptians. But there were also applicants from many other countries although in limited numbers.

The committee announced in Geneva on Wednesday that it was paying out the first tranche of compensation to 670 claimants from 16 countries. The committee, which started its work in February, rejected 307 applications, including 11 from Americans.

A three-judge panel studied the processed applications and ruled acceptances and rejections. Its recommendations were adopted by the full committee.

Mohammad Milhem, a lawyer and member of an Amman-based centre which processed the applications before sending them to Geneva, said less than 200 of the accepted applications were from Jordanians. He did not have a figure on the

rejections.

Yahya Al Otaibi, head of

the centre, was in Geneva

last week following up the

claims, but he was not im-

mediately available for com-

ment.

A higher committee comprising several ministers and senior officials directly in charge of the process of filing Jordanian applications and following up the matter with the U.N. Reports that this committee planned to appropriate a percentage of the settled claims could not be immediately confirmed.

All the beneficiaries belonged to Category B of victims, defined by the U.N. committee as those who were wounded or lost a family member of close relative by Iraqi actions during the invasion and the subsequent seven-month Iraqi occupation.

The scale of compensation ranged between \$2,500 per individual up to \$10,000 for a family. The total amount involved in the first tranche of payment is \$2.7 million.

Category A covers those who were forced to flee Kuwait in the wake of the Iraqi invasion and occupation while Category C related to those who lost property in excess of \$100,000.

The U.N. committee esti-

mates that it needs up to \$200

million to settle the claims.

The body, set up after the

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Wider base, new team

THE RESHUFFLED cabinet of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali appears to be stronger than the former cabinet for the simple reason that it comprises "elements" from Parliament. The importance of this new character of the Majali government cannot but be emphasised since the exclusion of deputies from the former cabinet had weakened its mandate to make national decisions on issues that matter most in these trying times. The prime minister had hitherto adhered to the principle of separating the executive from the legislative branch by literally keeping out parliamentarians from his government. Hard-won experiences during the past few months have obviously convinced the prime minister that there could be no easy and absolute separation between the three principal branches of government.

But this is not all that is new about the newly assembled cabinet. The inclusion of the parliamentarian group, headed by Mr. Thouqan Al Hindawi, the new deputy prime minister, is also an important feature in view of the political clout that Mr. Hindawi and his colleagues from the Lower House enjoy both within Parliament as well as outside it. With the issues of peace pressing ever harder on the doors of the Kingdom, Dr. Majali needed as wide parliamentarian and public support as he can muster. With the new deputy prime minister slated to deal with most of the pressing domestic issues, the door is kept wide open for the prime minister to occupy himself even more with the nitty gritty aspects of the peace process especially now that Jordan and Israel have in fact reached a critical cross-roads in their bilateral peace talks.

The overall picture that is now emerging from the new government is one that promises more determined and coherent efforts on both the external and internal fronts. The need for well coordinated policy on both fronts cannot but be underscored in this particular era facing the country. We cannot pursue an effective foreign policy with regard to the peace process or otherwise without enjoying an equally effective internal policy, including of course the further development of the democratic process. In the forefront of the issues that still await resolution on the domestic front is of course the proposed new election law that should aim to give additional credibility to parliamentary democracy that was ushered in 1989.

The economy of the country has still a long way to go before it can stand on its own two feet. The challenges facing us are indeed formidable and have as such necessitated a wider based cabinet. Whether this new base is broad enough is something that only time can tell.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily expressed pessimism over the new reshuffled government of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, but he said that he was waiting to see if the new ministers would live up to some people's expectations. Bassam Enoush, an Islamic Action Front deputy, said the Jordanian people want to see the government unrelenting to foreign pressure, honouring what is right and fighting corruption and upholding sublime ideals pertaining to education and Islamic religion. The writer said he wanted to see the government pursuing efforts to put an end to misconduct on the part of many people in key positions and to maintain a high level of consultations with the legislative authority in all matters related to domestic and foreign affairs. Attacking some of the deputies who accepted Cabinet portfolios without naming any one, the writer said that it was shameful that these deputies have never concealed their desire to become ministers. Indeed, he said, those people had run in the elections in the first place for the sole purpose of becoming ministers one day.

WHAT JORDAN achieved in the trilateral meetings in Washington is but a start and it remains to be seen whether the Israelis will honour their commitment to demarcate the borders with the Kingdom and settle the water problem on a fair basis, said Al Dustour daily. The paper said some Jordanians believe the breakthrough in the Washington talk marks a major turning point in the Arab-Israeli negotiations and would lead to further successes along the other Arab-Israeli tracks. But it should be noted here that the success, was a very limited step and people want to see something materialising on the ground, said the daily. It would not be surprising to us to see Israel trying to escape from the commitments it made in Washington by trying to stall and manoeuvre as the Jewish state could be trying to reap the lion's share of benefits of peace, added the paper. It said that it is premature to talk of optimistic about successful projects executed through Jordanian-Israeli cooperation in the Jordan Valley because one should first wait for the first steps to be taken in the coming month regarding borders and water sharing. One has to wait and see, added the paper, whether Israel will be transforming its declared good intentions into facts on the ground.

Jordanian Perspective

Reshuffle reflects new emphasis on peace process

THE RESHUFFLE that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali carried out last week was one of Jordan's major steps towards devoting full attention to peace negotiations with Israel now that the Jewish state has dropped its stalling tactics and agreed to discuss the thorny issues of border demarcation and water rights.

The changes established Dr. Majali's ability to exercise political flexibility and hindsight whenever needed, after having adopted a strong position against including members of Parliament in his government, first when he formed the Cabinet in May 1993 and again when he carried out a limited reshuffle in November.

By bringing in heavyweight politicians like Thouqan Hindawi and Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh along with eight other members of Parliament, Dr. Majali has managed to make his government more representative and reduce tension with Parliament. Of course that does not mean that it would be smooth sailing for the government all the way in Parliament, particularly that the blocs in the Lower House are not exactly very happy with the individual approaches that Dr. Majali adopted in sounding out and enlisting deputies into his Cabinet.

Now, with the exception of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the cabinet includes all shades of the political spectrum present in Parliament. The so-called Zaid Rifai and Mudar Badran factions are also in, and the north has no longer any reason to complain of a scaled-down presence in the executive authority, with Dr. Hindawi, Mr. Rawabdeh, Yousef Dalabih, Hisham Al Tal and Saleh Israeil occupying key positions in the cabinet.

Other independent and influential politicians with proven records opted not to join the government and the reasons for their absence could be traced to considerations related to the fast pace in the peace process. However, the very fact that they were offered the opportunity to join the executive authority should help smoothen the differences between Parliament and government that marked the last one year in office of Dr. Majali (in my own parlance, I would describe those who refrained from joining the cabinet as the Kingdom's key "reserves," to be drawn upon as and when the need arises).

Any scrutiny of the new government would not be complete without acknowledging the presence of several key figures in the cabinet with unblemished records in their public service. These include Mr. Dalabih, who served as His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan's military secretary; Adel Qudah, who held no punches back in challenging inefficiencies in financial administration as head of the Audit Bureau, the Customs Department and the Income Tax Department; Talal Ureikat, a career military officer and former personal secretary to the Crown Prince; and Jumma Hammad, a highly respected journalist and former member of the Upper House of Parliament known for his logical, unbiased approach to issues. They represent not only an additional asset to the image of the government but also a reassuring factor to Dr. Majali on streamlining the internal front. The creation of a new portfolio for administrative development and the appointment of Mohammad Thuneibat, head of the Institute of Public Administration, to head that ministry as minister of state underlined the determination of the government to press ahead with the complicated and difficult task of administrative reform.

Quite interestingly, the appointment of Ziad Fariz, the veteran planning minister whose contribution to resurrecting the Jordanian economy after its collapse in 1988-89, as an advisor to Crown Prince Hassan strengthens the parallel economic team in the Royal Palace. Dr. Fariz's presence in the team along with Mohammad Saqqaf and Ahmad Mango should enable the Crown Prince to keep a close eye on the economic course of the country on a day-to-day basis.

The very composition of the economic team advising the Crown Prince should be an answer in itself to critics who have raised their eyebrows at the present economic team in the government despite the record of the success of Finance Minister Sami Gammoh in streamlining the fiscal budget and successfully pushing the sales tax law through Parliament in unwavering adherence to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

Indeed the sales tax itself was controversial and wide hostilities have been generated against the levy in the local scene. But that should not be any reflection on Mr. Gammoh. In my reading, opposition to the law was entrenched in the public mind much before Dr. Majali took office one year ago, and it was an uphill battle all the way for his economic team to convince the public and Parliament that there was no escape from the levy in the first place and that it was not as bad as it sounded with the added background clamour of arguments that market prices were going to shoot up and punish the poor. The market situation since the law went into force early this

month belies arguments. Critics of the government also seem to overlook the fact that now we have Hisham Al Khatib as planning minister. Dr. Khatib's abilities in financial administration and efficiency in confronting adverse situations as well as negotiating capabilities have been proved time and again. And there is little reason to expect that his performance in meeting the challenges of Jordanian economic planning would be any less impressive than that of his predecessor, Dr. Fariz.

Apart from reduced tension with and bedrock support in Parliament, the presence of experienced politicians and executives like Dr. Hindawi and Mr. Rawabdeh should make it easy for Dr. Majali to relieve himself of preoccupations with the internal situation and devote all his efforts and energy to the crucial phase of negotiations with Israel that is looming on the horizon after last week's agreements in Washington to set up committees to demarcate the borders, negotiate water-sharing formulas and explore economic cooperation projects.

No doubt, the new cabinet line-up reflects a determination of the Jordanian leadership to press ahead with the objectives of the mandate given to Dr. Majali when he was first appointed prime minister one year ago. But, now that one of the major tasks assigned to him, conducting fair and free general elections, has been successfully completed seven months ago, it was high time that the executive authority was strengthened towards the most challenging and difficult task of wrenching Jordan's national rights from Israel through negotiations.

Needless to say, the reshuffle gave priority to the peace process and strengthened the band of the government in dealing with the exigencies of the peace process at a time when Jordan can ill-afford any delay in pressing ahead. The Kingdom waited for others to make progress in their tracks of negotiations with Israel and as soon as that was achieved it went ahead with sorting out the key issues on its table with the Jewish state.

However, the progress that was achieved in Washington last week does not mean that Jordan was on the verge of a peace treaty with Israel. Despite the widespread speculation on the local scene that that is indeed the case, it is naive and unreasonable to expect Jordan to abandon its long-held principle and go for a unilateral peace accord with the Jewish state without waiting for the other parties involved in the peace negotiations launched in Madrid in 1991. Quite simply, it is against Jordan's national interests that are held above everything else by our leadership.

M. KAHIL



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Fresh talks with Israel right step to serve the Kingdom's interests

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

DEVELOPMENTS in the peace process, the situation in Yemen and domestic issues were addressed by the local Arabic daily press in the past week.

Under the title of "Along the Path of a Comprehensive Solution," Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the achievements accomplished along the Jordanian-Israeli track would not be crowded by a peace treaty without a pan-Arab endorsement of an overall Arab-Israeli settlement that can restore Arab rights. The Israeli consent to demarcate the borders with Jordan is only part of the demands made by the Arab parties to the peace negotiations.

The Jordanian government did well in resuming the talks with Israel so that the negotiations would not remain deadlocked with the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher conducting futile shuttle diplomacy between the capitals of the region, said Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour.

In view of reports about progress on the Israeli-Syrian track, Jordan has all the right to seek to ensure its own national interests and solve its outstanding problems resulting from Israel's occupation of Arab land, added the writer.

Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said while Arab parties claim they are coordinating their positions in the peace negotiations, they are doing nothing to prevent Israel from pursuing its attacks on Lebanon's territory. The writer said that now Jordan should make its demands clear, just like Syria did when it defined its

with Israel, which is intent on continuing its war against the Arabs. For its part, Jordan linked its continued participation in the peace process to the lifting of the siege on Aqaba. Why can't the Lebanese and the Syrians link their own position to halting all Israeli attacks on Lebanese territory to ensure their resumption of the peace talks? be asked.

Supporting the government's move to open talks with Israel over territory and water sharing issues, Sultan Al Hattab, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said that Jordan shoulders serious responsibility and should forge ahead with plans to ensure the return of lost lands and rights. The writer said that in light of the poor level of coordination the Palestinians are baying with Jordan, the Jordanian government has no alternative but to move ahead with its talks so that it would not be left lagging behind. He said Jordan has a very narrow space for manoeuvre and should seize every opportunity to safeguard its national rights and the Palestinians who have accomplished their first step towards statehood, added the writer. Dr. Fanek said that there is no such thing as coordination among Arab parties and claims to the contrary are an attempt to escape making decisions in this crucial matter.

Samir Habashneh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, welcomed genuine coordination between Jordan, Syria and Lebanon in the face of Israel's proclamations and ill intentions.

For the past four decades, we have been hearing calls and slogans for coordination among the Arab countries around Israel but nothing has materialised, he said. We would like to see Syria, Jordan and Lebanon taking steps leading to economic integration as an initial stage to be followed by other steps towards regaining all usurped Arab rights and water, said the writer.

Referring to the Israeli raids on Lebanon, Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that by striking the Lebanese resistance, the Israelis are pursuing their war on Lebanon. He said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin hopes to appease the Israeli opposition, which rebelled against his handing over the Gaza and Jericho regions to the Palestinians, added the writer.

The writer said the Israelis want to make it clear to the Syrians that their demands for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the Lebanese territories would not receive a favourable response in Israel.

These views were echoed

by Hizbullah positions. Mr. Rabin is dealing a blow to the Israeli opposition which has been objecting to his agreements with the Palestinians. Saleh Al Qallab said that by flexing Israel's military muscles, Mr. Rabin is telling the opposition that Israel might care and will protect Israel's interests regardless of the autonomy rule in parts of Palestine.

For his part, Tareq Masarweh said that raiding Hizbullah positions was part of Israel's campaign to pressure Syria into returning to the negotiating table. The columnist said that by raiding Lebanon's territory close to Syria and by massing troops near the border with Lebanon, Israel is showing its determination in its confrontation with Syria in order to prevent the Syrians from regaining the Golan Heights.

Nabil Al Sharif, a writer in Al Dustour, said that only Qatar out of all the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council has decided to refrain from signing the final statement concerning the situation in Yemen out of its keenness to preserve the unity of that country. The writer said that Qatar has shown a brave stand in the face of an overwhelming support for southern Yemen on the part of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. It was, he said, similar to its stand when it chose to rebuild bridges with Iraq in the wake of the Gulf war. The writer said Qatar has realised before other partners in the council that it is of paramount importance to seek unity among Arab countries and reject any move leading to the weakening and disintegration of the Arab World.

Africa needs to stand on its own feet

By Francis Mdlongwa

Reuter

HARARE — African states have seized the initiative in a bid to end Rwanda's bloodshed after what some see as dithering by Western countries preoccupied by their own problems.

Political commentators say the Africans have awakened to the fact that in the post-cold war era, they must offer solutions to the continent's crises themselves.

"Non-Africans" are not prepared for a long haul in subduing an African conflict and are certainly not prepared to accept casualties," Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper said Saturday.

It recalled that the United States and other Western states pulled out of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Somalia earlier this year after rag-tag militiamen inflicted casualties on them.

The Herald was commenting after 14 African nations from Benin in the west to Botswana in the south resolved to send troops to halt carnage in Rwanda that has killed 500,000 people.

The 14 met in Zimbabwe's capital Harare to review the continent's economic woes and political issues after the demise of apartheid in South Africa, which for decades preoccupied many of them.

Nelson Mandela, elected South Africa's first black president in April after three centuries of white domination, attended the twin summit, giving them a moral fillip.

Mandela, as head of Africa's

richest nation now finally free, certainly gave weight to the meetings which by all accounts were very successful," an African diplomat said.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which holds its annual summit in Tunis next week, has tried unsuccessfully since its founding in 1963 to assemble a force that would intervene in crises such as those in Rwanda, Somalia, Liberia and Angola.

"Non-Africans" are not prepared for a long haul in subduing an African conflict and are certainly not prepared to accept casualties," Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper said Saturday.

"But with increasing demands for good governance and political changes since the end of the cold war, the need for such a force couldn't be greater and Africa is in the spotlight," he said.

The Herald said that the West, led by Washington, had little vital interests in the world's poorest continent.

"We can still save lives in Rwanda and the United Nations, using the African troops now offered, must do this and do it quickly," it said. "We must never let such genocide ever happen again in Africa."

Aid agencies say 500,000 Rwandans have been slaughtered in a war pitting the majority Hutus against the minority Tutsis.

An African diplomat said the West was concerned with its own domestic problems, especially trying to revive economies that were moving too slowly out of recession.

LETTERS

'You shall not love'

To the Editor:

JORDAN TELEVISION Channel 2 is feeding us nearly every day with the most cruel and criminal movies; killing, kidnapping, battered women, terror, horror, in all varieties. It seems that there is nothing else in the world, especially in the Western world, and particularly in America.

And when there is one of the more enjoyable films, where people fall in love, and express their feelings for each other by kissing and hugging, these scenes are cut, censored by people who feel they have to "protect" the citizens from immoral behaviour.

It seems that for those responsible the most important commandment is not "you shall not kill", but "you shall not love".

Also I find it very humiliating that there are people deciding what I should see or not see. I am an adult with perfectly normal moral standards, with a functioning brain, so far, and I can judge for myself what kind of movies I want to see. I have the ability to choose the right movies, and do not need censors to tell me what to see.

What kind of democracy is that, where people never get the chance to develop their thinking and mature. There is no respect if people are treated like stupid creatures who have to swallow what others chewed for them.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Heidi Masarweh, Amman.

Job 11 in 11

Jordan has clear vision on Syria ties

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli economic agreement. But Jordan, though welcoming closer ties with the two Arab states, said solid and practical steps should govern the approach to the proposal.

Other sources, who expected Syria to push for the proposal, said Jordan will not enter the alliance if it will be directed against any third party or will impair that impression. They said Jordan will not want to be exclusive to the countries which launch it under certain political circumstances.

Informal sources said His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad spoke of the need for "higher level of economic and political cooperation" between the two countries during their summit in Damascus last month. But they would not confirm news reports that the two leaders

discussed the formation of an economic alliance.

The desire for closer ties and coordination with all Arab states is a constant of the policy of Jordan," a well-informed source told the Jordan Times. But, he added, "fast steps based on emotions would not be the way to do it." Other sources added that Jordan will want any alliances open to all Arab parties who might show interest in joining it.

In addition, the sources said, Jordan will want to guarantee the success of any institutionalized form of cooperation by first preparing the ground work for it.

The sources also pointed to the regional political environment which they said might hamper the success or even the launch of a formal Jordanian-Syrian-Libanese economic

Refugee issue will be solved in final status

(Continued from page 10)

Saleh said the agency's Peace Implementation Programme, which was launched after the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord in Washington in September, was intended to improve infrastructure in schools and health clinics, create jobs and improve transportation infrastructure inside refugee camps.

Mr. Kurtzer said that donor, sponsor and other countries involved in the multilateral talks on refugees such as Jordan, Canada, the European Union and the United Nations, and the World Bank were asked to "bring experience, expertise and resources to bear on the problems of the region."

Mr. Saleh said that donors had thus far "given firm pledges" of \$86 million to

wards the peace implementation programme.

Mr. Kurtzer said that while the bilateral talks were intended to lead to a political solution between Israel, Palestinians and the Arab states hosting refugees, the multilateral talks were intended to create a "mechanism for the material conditions in which the Palestinian refugees find themselves — the way they live, the way they eat, the way they educate their children and the way they can or cannot compete for jobs."

"Neither solution, neither the practical nor the political, would probably work without the other. It's the merging of the two, the practical and the political, that makes this peace process look like it's going to be successful over time," concluded Mr. Kurtzer.

PLO state of affairs delays Jordan accord

(Continued from page 1)

there were no problems or misunderstandings regarding the agreement.

"Signing the agreement with Jordan is more urgent than ever. Any procrastination will be harmful to both sides. I see no reason for any delay," he said.

Abu Ala's statement clearly reflects the differences within the upper echelons of the PLO as well as the increasing frustration with the state of general indecision.

One problem that seems to cause the delay is while Abu Ala has reached the draft agreement, it is Mr. Kadoumi who will sign it and could even negotiate modifications with Jordan.

That was the case when Abu Ala reached the broader economic cooperation with Jordan in November. It was not until January that Mr. Kadoumi signed it after negotiating modifications with Jordan.

The apparent differences and overlapping of roles of PLO officials reflect the state of affairs in the PLO after the signing of the Oslo accord, which was negotiated by Abu Ala without the knowledge of Mr. Kadoumi, the PLO foreign minister and cofounder of the Fatah mainstream movement.

Since then Mr. Kadoumi has taken a more active role in economic negotiations in his capacity as the PLO's foreign minister and acting

287 Palestinians freed but confined to Jericho

(Continued from page 1)

their local Israeli military office in the occupied West Bank to process papers before returning home.

The document bars the holder from entering Israel proper.

"I don't think Jericho should be a dumping ground for the prisoners," said Saeb Erekat, "minister" of local government in the new Palestinian authority.

Under the May 4 Israel-PLO agreement to implement autonomy, Israel agreed to release up to 5,000 of the 9,000 Palestinian prisoners in its jails within nine weeks. Those belonging to factions opposed to the agreement or convicted of killing or injuring Israelis will not be freed.

Also agreed was that Palestinians serving life terms for killing other Palestinians would be released into autonomous areas, either in Gaza or Jericho.

The PLO has agreed that 128 others sentenced to life terms will remain in Jericho under the agreement, but the prisoners themselves are unhappy.

"I feel bad, because I cannot go home," said Jamal Assad Hamad, 27, of the Black Panther militant which is loyal to Yasser Arafat's Fatah wing of the PLO. Mr. Hamad lives in Kabata, about 60 kilometres north of Jericho, near the West Bank town of Jenin.

The provision that prisoners convicted of violent crimes serve out their sentences in the autonomy areas sparked protests earlier in the week when prisoners had to sign papers saying they would respect that

trict Mr. Kadoumi's definition of the role of the joint monetary committee. However, the wording of the draft agreement itself seems to be vague on defining the committee's role as it refers in general to joint coordination on supervision and licensing of financial institutions and banks.

What seems to be more problematic is the Jordanian proposal for the Palestinian authority to open an account at the CBI. While the reservations on the proposal stem from concern that such a step could give Jordan "political leverage" over the Palestinian authority, Jordanian sources had immediately dismissed such doubts, especially that the agreement also includes a proposal that the Jordanian government opens an account with the proposed Palestinian monetary authority.

Meanwhile, the agreement with Jordan is pending and no date has been set for Mr. Kadoumi's visit to Jordan. As with all other important issues, the leadership appears to be awaiting a decision by Mr. Arafat, who has not been discussing his future plans with most of his colleagues who in turn have been waiting for him to recover from a sharp fit and make up his mind about how to deal with the many pending questions.

However, most PLO officials here believe that differences with Jordan could be solved once talks with the Kingdom begin.

U.N. envoy pursues bid

(Continued from page 1)

United States, the European Union, Russia, Japan, Canada and Saudi Arabia. Associated members and the PLO, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, the United Nations and the World Bank.

The Israeli delegation said in a statement that "Israel insisted during the talks that Jerusalem should not be mentioned as the seat of the Palestinian Economic Council for Reconstruction and Development (PECDAR), although that was the Palestinians' intention."

Instead, it was agreed that PECDAR offices would open in Gaza and Jericho, and the opening of other offices could only be decided by common agreement.

Dr. Shaath, chief negotiator of last month's self-rule accord and the new Palestinian authority's "finance minister," said it was decided to leave the issue of Jerusalem to be discussed by the two parties elsewhere in the light of their peace accords.

Delegates said the Israelis promised to grant 10,000 extra permits for Palestinians to work in the Jewish state, in addition to the 35,000 currently authorized.

However, that was a far cry from the free movement of labour sought by the Palestinians, and from the roughly 120,000 Palestinians who worked in Israel before restrictions were enforced for "security reasons" last year.

UNITED NATIONS

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)



الإقليم العربي
اللجنة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية
لدول آسيا (إسكوا)

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has a requirement for additional office space totalling approximately 600 square metres (useable office space) within a single building, preferably located in or near the Shmeisani area.

The rental will be for a one year period with an option to extend for a second year. Preferences will be given to facilities offered which require minimal renovations prior to occupancy.

Proposals should be submitted in sealed envelopes to:

Procurement Unit (3rd floor)
United Nations ESCWA
Abdel Hamid Sharaf No. 28
Shmeisani, Amman.

Proposals should be received at ESCWA no later than 15 June, 1994.

Proposals must include the address of the structure, a description of the available space with floor plans, total square metres and the price per square metre. Also, if any services are included in the lease price such as maintenance and/or cleaning services, a description of the services should be included.

Ibrahimi, Yemen envoy arrive

(Continued from page 1)

Korea's rejection of inspections and urged it to open all of its nuclear sites.

Following the vote, North Korean envoy Yun Ho Jin said his country would not allow any more IAEA inspections. He said the agency's two inspectors currently in North Korea would be asked to leave immediately.

"We will not allow any of the verification activity, which is now under way," the envoy said.

The United States and Russia agreed Friday to cooperate on a motion calling for United Nations sanctions against North Korea.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said after talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in Istanbul that a resolution to that effect would be presented to the U.N. Security Council "in the next few days." The two men met in Istanbul on the fringe of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) talks on establishing a partnership with Russia.

Japanese Foreign Minister Koichi Kakiizawa meanwhile prepared to head for Seoul and Beijing to sound out the Chinese on the crisis. But even before he left, Chinese President Jiang Zemin categorically refused to impose economic sanctions on its ally.

"It is necessary to deal patiently with such a complicated issue," Mr. Jiang told Japan's NHK television. "There is still room left for dialogue. China is opposed to sanctions which could bring about grave consequences." He indicated the crisis should be settled by dialogue.

In Tokyo, Japanese and

IAEA penalises North Korea

(Continued from page 1)

U.S. officials agreed some of last need for U.N. Security Council on economic sanctions against Pyongyang between the two countries.

The accord was reached between Japan's Foreign Minister, Hiroyuki Fukuda and U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff, in PLO

Pyongyang said it will withdraw from the nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty for a second time.

Russia has been slow to throw wholehearted support behind punitive international sanctions and has launched the idea of an international conference to debate the issue among delegations from the two Koreas, Russia, the United States and the United Nations.

Mr. Christopher said U.S. President Bill Clinton had discussed the matter with Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin by telephone and confirmed both countries' intent to pursue a two-pronged strategy comprising the threat of sanctions as well as an international conference.

A White House official said meanwhile former President Jimmy Carter's trip to North Korea next week is a private one and he will not be carrying a message about the current nuclear problem from the U.S. government.

But the administration has discussed the trip with Mr. Carter, the official added.

"Carter is on a private visit" at the invitation of the Pyongyang government, the official said.

"We have discussed North Korea with him, but he is not an envoy."

Iraqi pipeline deal

(Continued from page 10)

denied," he said, addressing his latest call to Iraq's people, the opposition and "concerned governments" in the area.

U.N. missile inspectors headed for Baghdad on Friday to tag Iraqi missile systems as part of a long-term monitoring and verification programme.

Jordanians to be evacuated from Aden

(Continued from page 10)

If the ship, which has a 1,600-passenger capacity, is unable to dock at Aden's port, it will remain offshore in Yemen's territorial waters. Smaller boats will then be used to bring the evacuees to the bigger ship, an operation that is expected to take two days, the IOM said.

Chartered Jordanian planes brought home nearly 1,000 Jordanians from Yemen after the breakout of the civil war. Others have come home aboard the erratic flights oper-

ated by other airlines and a few were ferried to Djibouti from where they flew home.

The IOM issued an urgent appeal last month for \$355,000 to finance the evacuation and has received \$120,000 from Germany and \$50,000 from Britain.

The agency, set up in 1951, is the main international body concerned with migration, arranging the movement of refugees and migrants to new homes. Jordan is an observer-member of the agency.

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Delors calls for world economic security council

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Jacques Delors, chief executive of the European Union (EU) has called here for the creation of an economic security council to promote world economic stability.

Mr. Delors, president of the European Commission, said urgent action was needed towards "global management of economic problems".

He was speaking at the end of a three-day session of the Commission of Global Governance, a body comprising 28 world leaders in 1992 to study global cooperation following the end of the cold war.

Mr. Delors identified the growing swell of world capital movements as a particular threat to economic stability and sustainable economic growth.

"If the rationale of the capital market goes against the interests of the global neighbourhood, who can react?" he asked at a press conference.

Mr. Delors' answer was an economic security council com-

prising the United States, Japan, the EU, China, Russia and countries heading regional economic organisation in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Pacific.

He proposes that such a council meet regularly with representatives of such institutions as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the International Labour Organisation.

"We cannot go on talking about the global and the world economy without knowing how to tackle the problem," Mr. Delors said.

He stressed the need to take a global view of a world economy becoming ever-more unified, and to establish links between "trade, currencies, finance, the environment and population growth."

Mr. Delors said that the international capital market had to bear much of the blame for the current rise in long-term interest rates.

Pakistan reports recovery from setbacks

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan has recovered from serious economic setbacks to achieve four per cent growth in its gross domestic product (GDP) during fiscal 1993-94, ending June 30, the government has said.

Growth, which had slumped to a record low of 2.28 per cent in 1992-93, has been revived despite shortfalls in cotton and wheat production, it said in an economic survey.

The document has been released ahead of the announcement of the next national budget by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's eight-month old government.

Ms. Bhutto has promised a tough budget with new taxation to generate 15 billion rupees (\$500 million) mainly through a general sales tax.

But, she has said there would be no significant increase in defence spending and that her government would meet International Monetary Fund advice to reduce the budget deficit to six per cent of GDP, down from nine per cent previously.

The survey attributed the economic revival to restoration of political stability, a reference to last year's political crisis that saw the fall of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

It said the structural reforms by the Bhutto administration had covered "considerable mileage" toward macroeconomic stability.

According to the survey, Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves have risen to \$2.1 billion from a dismal \$461 million in the previous year.

A "steep" decline of 15.72 per cent in major crops during 1992-93 had been "almost arrested" in 1993-94.

Exports fell by more than three per cent, mainly due to decline in cotton production for the second year in a row, but a 12 per cent decrease in imports will help "improve" the balance of trade, the report said.

Industrial investment in the manufacturing sector increased by 15.06 per cent during 1993-94. Foreign portfolio investment witnessed an increase of 270.98 per cent.

The process of privatisation and economic deregulation has been "widened and strengthened," the survey said.

A number of country funds have been established abroad for investment in Pakistan.

These funds have been sponsored by American Citibank, Hongkong and Credit Lyonnais, a French bank based in Hong Kong.

The survey said the stock market in the country "has remained in a bullish mood," with the foreign investment inflow increasing to \$417.2 million during July-March from \$263.9 million during the same period last year.

The country's petroleum imports during July-March in the outgoing year amounted to \$1,052.6 million, down from \$1,136.1 million in the same period of the previous fiscal year.

Pakistan's own daily average oil production during 1993-94 stood at 57,880 barrels and that of natural gas at 1,724 MMCFD.

Yeltsin announces economic decrees

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin Friday opened the doors to wider foreign banking activity in Russia, announcing a decree on improvements to the Russian banking system.

"Russian bankers are going to strongly criticise the president, because it will start real competition," he told reporters here.

"I think the cautious and progressive implication of foreign banks in our financial life will bring the system back to life and push down our interest rates," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin launched new social policy initiatives to create affordable housing, fight crime and poverty, protect citizens against dishonest businessmen and poor banking practices.

He announced the series of decrees completing a first wave of economic measures issued last month at a news conference marking the third anniversary of his election to the presidency.

The new initiatives were aimed at alleviating the country's housing crisis, by granting citizens special loans to buy apartments and offering special incentives to private construction firms to build more housing.

"Housing is too expensive for the majority of people. The state must offer prospects for these people," Mr. Yeltsin said.

The Russian leader announced the establishment of a new national programme to fight poverty which he said would be directly responsible to the presidency.

He said 25 per cent of the Russian population lived below the poverty line while an additional 20 to 30 per cent was on the verge of falling under the minimum level to subsist.

Foreign Office: Britain is largest European investor in Asia

LONDON (AFP) — Britain is the largest European investor in Asia and receives the largest share of Asian investment in Europe, Foreign Office Minister Alastair Goodlad has said.

"Last year British exports to the region were worth over £14 billion — an increase of 27 per cent on 1992," he told British businessmen, detailing that Britain came first in invisible exports and second in visible exports.

British exports to Thailand rose by 40 per cent and to China by a hefty 72 per cent, he said.

"Twenty years ago, Hong Kong's income per capita was only half that of Britain. Today it is higher," he said, adding that Singapore now had the same per capita income as Britain.

"Taiwan's rapid industrialisation has brought its income per capita to over \$10,000 per annum, higher than in either Portugal or Greece," he said.

The Russian president also said he would participate in writing the final communique of the Group of Seven summit in Naples, Italy, in July proving that "the political Group of Eight is already formed," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin has been pushing for the past two years to join the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States have been cautious about admitting Russia as a member.

"One can't say that the Group of Eight is completely formed, but one can say that the political Group of Eight is already formed," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin said he would take part in the day of political discussions at the Group of Seven summit taking place from July 8 to July 10 in Naples and in the writing of the political declaration.

However he would "take absolutely no part" in economic discussions.

Mr. Yeltsin said he would hope to be able to sign a partnership agreement with the European Union at its summit taking place in Corfu, Greece, June 24 and 25.

"I will leave (Moscow) for 24 hours to go to Corfu and I will sign (the accord) if it is ready, as I hope," he said.

An agreement will allow Russia to "create a stable European market" and represent a first step to future Russian membership of the European Union, Mr. Yeltsin said.

"We are following the procedure for joining the European Union. None of the 12 (EU members) deny that Russia has the right to be there, because it is a great European power," Mr. Yeltsin said.

In 1993, the average GDP growth for the region as a whole was over six per cent. Most countries reported growth of between five and 10 per cent. China — an amazing 13 per cent," he pointed out.

"By comparison, Europe's performance in the same period was less than one per cent."

He said the Foreign Office planned to set up new offices in Pusan, Korea and Nagoya, Japan and that the government planned to increase British exports to Japan from £2.65 billion in 1993 to £3.5 billion by 1996.

Mr. Goodland added: "Compared to many other parts of the world, the Asia-Pacific region is peaceful.

"Consensus within the region, and outside it, is that it is vital for the United States to remain fully engaged to act as a balance and a deterrent. There is every indication that they intend to do so," he pointed out.

Weekly analysis of movements, trends of major world currencies

This report, which covers the week from Thursday, June 2, 94 to Wednesday June 8, 94, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai.

Overview

Fundamental View: The dollar's potential to rally significantly appears to be limited by concerns about deterioration in the U.S. balance of payments, while the threat of large-scale control bank intervention limits the dollar's downside. U.S. policymakers still appear to favour a firm dollar to curb inflation, even though administration officials continue to give mixed signals about how aggressively they will seek trade concessions from Japan.

We continue to look for the dollar to trade in a relatively narrow range of USD/DM 1.60-to-1.70 and USD/JPY 100-to-110 for most of this year. Longer term, we continue to expect the dollar to weaken to the USD/NJPY 95 yen level under the weight of persistently large Japanese current account surpluses and weak private capital outflows from Japan.

Technical View: The U.S. dollar index managed to post its fourth consecutive weekly gain aided by the strength against the Danish krone, Swiss franc, Japanese yen and British pound. Short-term measures continue to be oversold for the dollar index and in the beginning stages of bottoming process especially among the four currencies mentioned above.

Although the dollar index is encountering problems with short-term resistance levels at 93.52, the ability to break decisively through 94.03 would suggest that the bottom-building process is underway. A move above 95.30 would confirm the breakout. Overall, we continue to suggest that the U.S. dollar should be in the beginning stages of preparing for a summer rally. Support for the dollar exists at 91.29 and 90.30.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: Market participants continue to be quite sensitive to every move in U.S.-Japan trade relations, but there is little doubt that top U.S. policymakers have made a decision to put financial market stability ahead of trade goals for the time being. That said, U.S. trade officials still have a tendency to lapse into combative rhetoric on U.S.-Japan trade issues that has the potential to roil currency markets. U.S. and Japanese policy appears aimed now at stabilising the dollar in the USD/JPY

100-to-110 range. But the yen could prove to be difficult to stabilise because of Japan's financial problems and the sheer size of Japan's current account imbalance. Even with the recent hike in U.S. interest rates and low overnight rates in Japan, it is not clear that Japanese investors are willing or able to finance the imbalance after having suffered large losses on their foreign direct investments in recent years.

Thus, persistent dollar-buying efforts by the central banks may be needed for some time to come to keep the yen from breaking through the JPY/USD 100 level. We continue to expect Japan to post a current account surplus of more than \$125 billion this year. We expect the weight of that surplus, relative to underlying private sector capital flows, to eventually push the dollar toward our 12-month target of 95 yen.

Technical View: The Japanese yen fell 0.81 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended June 3. Moreover, the yen is encountering difficulty with nearby resistance levels of 102. This was also a previous resistance level in late 1993. Sentiment figures have now remained neutral for the past three weeks. Short term momentum measures continue to show signs of bottoming, but have thus far failed as the yen lost leverage over the past month.

Although the yen might encounter some strength over the near term, it seems, due to the medium term momentum deterioration that the yen is setting up for further weakness over the summer months. For now support exist between 106-112. Benchmark resistance remains at 97.98.

Deutschmark

Fundamental View: The positive tone of the U.S. bond market relative to European bond markets appears to have helped the dollar firm against the Deutschmark in recent days. But the relatively high level of real interest rates in Europe could limit the dollar's potential to rally in view of the large impact of cross border bond flows on currency markets. We still expect year from 0.8 per cent to 1.2 per cent, which suggests that German officials interest rates are likely to decline only one more time in this cycle.

We now expect German 3-money rates to fall to 4.5 per cent by this time next year versus our previous expectation of 4.1 per cent. On balance, we continue to expect the dollar to remain in the DM 1.60-to-1.70 range for most of the next year and maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.70.

Technical View: The Deutschmark lost 1.35 per cent against the

U.S. dollar last week and was the weakest of the six currencies we monitor most regularly. Despite this weakness, the mark has now traded in a range between 1.63-1.67 DM/U.S. over the past month two months. Sentiment numbers remain overbought. Short term momentum measures have deteriorated once again.

All of this suggests that any short term strength may be temporary and that the final pieces to a top are forming. For now, support is at 1.695 with second support levels between 1.72-1.73. First resistance levels are 1.63-1.64, with second resistance at last October's highs near 1.59.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound rose with the U.S. dollar against the German mark in the past week, to DM/GBP 2.52, placing it at the top of the DM/GBP 2.47-to-2.52 range that it has held since the end of March. However, the dollar rallied more than the pound, causing the pound to trade slightly lower against the dollar at U.S.\$/GBP 1.51. In the near-term, political instability and a turbulent bond market may limit pound appreciation against the mark. A major focus for the pound will be the European election. A Tory defeat is widely expected and this will increase pressure on John Major to resign as prime minister. In the longer-term, the pound should be able to benefit from a rising short-term rate premium against the mark.

We believe that U.K. base rates have bottomed, but we think they are unlikely to be raised this year because we foresee no upward pressure on inflation in light of significant spare capacity. A modest tick up in U.K. short-term rates coupled with a series of German repo rate cuts should lead the pound up to DM/GBP 2.55 in 12 months. We expect the pound to trade at U.S.\$/GBP 1.50 in 12 months as pound appreciation against the DM is roughly offset by DM depreciation against the dollar.

Technical View: The British pound lost 0.26 per cent versus the U.S. dollar last week and has now rallied 3.22 per cent over the past two months. Sentiment has now moved into overbought from previous neutral readings. This coupled with the inability to break above overhead resistance of 1.52 U.S.\$/GBP and second resistance at \$1.55 would suggest that the pound is prone to some weakness in coming days. Moreover, medium term momentum measures continue to show very little definition. Due to the lack of definition, our parameters remain unchanged. Nearby support is \$1.46, with second support at \$1.43.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker



Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1994

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pele: Colombia is best

NEW YORK (AFP) — Brazilian football legend Pele called Colombia the best of 24 teams in the World Cup finals, but stopped short of predicting the South American team would hoist the championship trophy after the July 17 final. "For me, Colombia is the best team," Pele said here Thursday. "It doesn't mean they are going to win. Colombia has a good team. They have (Faustino) Asprilla. Colombia has a very organised team." "Win? I don't know. But they will be one of the four finalists," he added. Pele said Italy's Roberto Baggio and Brazil's Romario join Asprilla as players who could lead their team to the title with inspired play once the tournament starts June 17. "Brazil has very good players, but as a team they are not so necessarily compact, like Germany. Germany doesn't have so many big names but they work well together," Pele said. Pele called Ireland tough and said Nigeria's talent would put them into the second round before inexperience showed. He also predicted a second-round bid for the U.S. team if they beat Switzerland in their opener June 18.

Hungary's coach, league president quit

BUDAPEST (R) — The president of the Hungarian Soccer League and the national team coach have quit in the wake of a string of poor results, a league official said Thursday. Jozsef Verebes, 70, signalled he would step down as coach after Hungary were dumped 7-1 by the Netherlands last week. The team was beaten 3-1 by Belgium in a friendly Wednesday night. "I am tired of fighting windmills, of struggling in vain," Verebes was quoted as telling the daily *Nemzeti Sport*. The official said league President Mihaly Laczko resigned earlier Wednesday, complaining he could not do his job because of the league's strained finances. Lavish spending on Hungarian soccer under former communist governments has dried up since the advent of democracy. New, privately-owned corporations have not been able to generate sufficient sponsorship, leaving the game in a state of limbo. Verebes and Laczko were expected to explain their decisions at a press conference called by the league Friday.

Antonio Oliveira gets Portugal job

LISBON (AFP) — Antonio Oliveira was named as Portugal's new football manager here Friday. The 42-year-old former FC Porto and Sporting Lisbon player takes over from caretaker manager Nelo Vingada. Vingada was drafted in when Carlos Queiroz left the job to manage Sporting Lisbon. Antonio Oliveira was sacked last season by club side Sporting Braga after a run of bad results.

Japan sacks top football official

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's football authorities beefed up their bid for the 2002 World Cup by sacking top official Tadao Murata here Friday. A day-long meeting of Japan's 2002 committee also saw Murata, formerly general-secretary of the bid, also stripped of his vice-presidency of the Football Association of Japan. Murata's replacement, Saburo Kawahuchi — the brains behind Japan's successful J-League — was appointed deputy chairman of the bid committee's executive board. Murata's demotion follows his much-publicised failure at the Asian Football Confederation's recent elections to appoint the region's Fifa vice-president. Murata came last on the four-man ballot which was won by arch-rival Chung Moon-Jung, head of Korea's own bid to stage the 2002 World Cup.

Greek club offers \$8 million for Kukoc

ATHENS (R) — Greek club Panathinaikos have offered Toni Kukoc of the Chicago Bulls \$8 million to sign a two-year contract with them, club officials said on Friday. The officials said it was the highest offer ever made by a European team for a basketball player. "It is a serious and good offer," Kukoc's manager Luisiano Capicioni was quoted as saying in Greek newspapers. "The decision is now on Toni and the Bulls." Kukoc, a Croatian, joined the Chicago Bulls from Italy's Treviso in July 1993.

Friends keep ex-champ out of classroom

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Almost daily visits from friends kept boxer Mike Tyson away from his in-prison classroom studies and possibly cost him a chance for early release, a published report said Friday. A recent memo from prison officials showed Tyson had "excessive classroom absences," the *Lafayette Journal and Courier* reported. Tyson has a sentence reduction hearing Monday before Marion superior court judge Patricia Gifford. The former heavyweight champion's attorneys plan to argue that Tyson has rehabilitated himself in prison largely because of his academic progress. Tyson was sentenced to six years in prison after being convicted in February 1992 of raping Desirée Washington, a contestant in a beauty pageant.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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ENTER THE SCAVENGERS

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH ♦ K Q J 9 2 ♦ J 10 9 8 7 4 ♦ 8 ♦ 2	WEST ♦ A 10 7 8 3 ♦ 5 ♦ 7 A K ♦ Q 6 2 ♦ A 3 ♦ 9 8 5 ♦ Q 8 5 4 ♦ A J 10 9 6 3	EAST ♦ 2 6 5 3 ♦ K Q J 10 7 4 2 ♦ K 7	SOUTH ♦ 5 4 ♦ K Q J 10 9 6 2 ♦ K 7
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The bidding: East South West North
 3 ♦ 3 ♦ 5 ♦ Dbl
 Pass Pass Dbl Pass
 Pass 5 ♦ Dbl 5 ♦
 Pass 6 ♦ Dbl Pass
 Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♦
 When your opponents try to push you around in the auction, you must teach them a lesson. The way to do that is extract the maximum penalty.
 Since the hand might belong to North-South, North doubled five clubs for takeout, showing the major

South—a development that did not thrill South. South was prepared to play five hearts undoubled, but not doubled—hence the retreat to six diamonds when West wielded the ax.

East-West could have scored 920 for bidding six clubs. However, when declarer's bid was doubled, Evans with a diamond lead declarer need only win, cash the ace and king of hearts, come to hand with the ace of trumps and discard a diamond on the queen of hearts. Thus, four down or more from six diamonds doubled would yield a profit.

Giving East-West were Chicagoans Peter Nagy and Howard Weinstein. On the ace of spades lead declarer faltered with the eight, leaving West in doubt as to who held the singleton spade. The shift was to the diamonds and East followed with the nine, a suit preference for spades. Evans cashed the ace and ruffed by East when returned a heart.

West took two heart tricks, then put declarer on lead with a trump. At the end, declarer had to lead a club away from K allowing the defenders to take two tricks in the suit for a penalty of 1,700. Ouch!



U.S. Leroy Burrell looks up as he crosses the finish line to win the 100m B race at Rome's athletics Grand Prix here late Wednesday. Burrell clocked 10.86 seconds (AFP photo)

Germany defender to miss World Cup opener

The Associated Press

THOMAS Strunz, a starting defender for Germany, will miss next Friday's World Cup opener against Bolivia because of a hamstring injury.

Strunz, 26, sustained the injury in Wednesday's 2-0 victory over Canada, Germany's last warmup match before it defends its World Cup title.

"There are always miracles, but I can't imagine I'll be able to play," Strunz said at training camp in Alliston, Ontario. "You really prepare for the opening game, you concentrate hard on it, and then unfortunately something like this happens. But now I am looking ahead to the game against Spain."

Mario Bössler, a rookie offensive midfielder who was carried off the field Wednesday with what was thought to be a serious knee injury, should be able to resume full training within three days.

"It looked very bad and it was very, very painful," team physician Heinrich Hess said.

"But it turned out to be only bad bruising and a strain of interior ligaments. If his recovery continues to be so successful as in the first 24 hours, we

will attend a "festa Italiana" at Madison Square Garden in New York. It features Italian entertainer Renzo Arbore, his "Grande Orchestra Napoletana" and some popular Italian singers, including Lucio Dalla.

Brazil, the World Cup favourite, continued to draw criticism back home despite an 8-1 rout of Honduras Wednesday night in a World Cup warmup at San Diego.

Berti and Maldini are tall and handsome and were recently picked as potential models by Italian designer Giorgio Armani, who supplied the official team uniforms.

Berti had not played with the national team for nearly two years before this spring. He returned three months ago after recovering from a serious knee injury.

"Berti is a key player, but must work more than others to get used to our tactics and coordinate with the team," Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi said.

Italy opens its World Cup campaign June 18 against Ireland at East Rutherford, N.J. One day later, the Italian team

Preakness, Derby winners to battle again in Belmont Stakes

NEW YORK (AFP) — Preakness winner Tabasco Cat and Kentucky Derby champion Go for Gin meet in the Belmont Stakes here Saturday, a showdown to decide which three-year-old racing horse is best.

Go for Gin, which drew the inside post position Thursday, is a 9-5 favourite with Tabasco Cat next at 3-1.

"None of us are really sure how the race will go because we have not gone this far before," said D. Wayne Lucas, Tabasco Cat's trainer. "If we have a horse that's relaxed and mentally ready, I think we have a good chance."

Three of the last four Belmont races have been won by horses who ran in neither of the other two U.S. Triple Crown events.

"A rested horse is always better, so it's even more to his credit if Go for Gin wins," said the horse's trainer, Nick Zito.

79-minute victory.

The 22-year-old Sampras had toiled with his own delivery in the first set, producing three double faults in one game. But he explained, "I was going for a pretty hard second serve. It is important to keep going for it."

Sampras is now through

the last eight for a second

time in six years.

Queen's and he agreed to

in a better frame of mind in

12 months.

"I am getting to the Europe

much better," he said. "It's

long time away. I will be

over two months and a

doing okay."

Sampras after his

Ivanisevic ousted; Sampras advances at Queen's tournament

LONDON (R) — Fourth seed Goran Ivanisevic became the biggest casualty of the London grass court tournament when he crashed 7-6, 7-6 to little-known Swede Jan Apell in the third round at Queen's Club late Thursday.

But world number one Pete Sampras brushed aside Japan's 1992 runner-up Shuzo Matsumoto to claim a place in the quarter-finals with a 7-6, 6-2 triumph, a vast improvement on his laboured three-set win over Jonas Brokman of Sweden Wednesday.

Apell, ranked 127 in the world, took the tie-breaks 11-9 and 7-2 against Ivanisevic and afterwards confessed his astonishment at winning.

"I don't know what is happening," the 24-year-old from Gothenburg said. "I have only played on grass once as a junior and two other years, but I have never done anything."

The tall Croatian, who has still not got past the third round in three appearances, made no comment because he was scheduled to play doubles.

His defeat followed the upset of sixth-seeded Boris Becker of Britain's Jeremy Bates Tuesday. Bates continued his progress with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 over Daniel Nestor of Canada and will face Apell in the quarter-finals.

"I had a tough time in the first set because he was a monster serve, the court was very damp and it was tough to return. It wasn't until the tie-break that I really got to his serve," said Sampras after his



Goran Ivanisevic

to a shock appearance in the final two years ago with some brilliant deliveries to force a first-set tie-break against Sampras.

But once the Wimbledon champion, who begins his defence of that title in 11 days' time, swept it 7-2, he turned on a brilliant exhibition — after an 80-minute rain break at 0-1 in the second set. He broke the world number No. 135 twice to wrap up a 7-6, 6-2 victory.

"I had a tough time in the first set because he was a monster serve, the court was very damp and it was tough to return. It wasn't until the tie-break that I really got to his serve," said Sampras after his

Poor shooting haunts Knicks

HOUSTON, Texas (AFP) — Horrid shooting by both clubs made the opening game of the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals an ugly one.

But the best in the NBA, the

best in the NBA, has

every challenge to reach

the final for the first time since

1973.

The Knicks missed 60 of 91

shots in their 87-78 loss to

Houston here Wednesday, in

cluding 18 of 24 attempts in the

fourth quarter. The Rockets

failed of 43 of 74 shots, includ-

ing 11 of 13 in the lowest-

scoring final period ever in an

NBA final.

New York's John Starks

made only three of his 18

attempts. The funeral of an

uncle had kept him from practice

with the team and bothered him in the game.

"I can't blame what hap-

pened on my personal prob-

lems," Starks said. "I should

a lot of responsibility for the

loss. If I had played a little

better, we would have won."

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ARABIC SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGE

The Language Center at the University of Jordan announces that the Intensive Course in Modern Standard Arabic for Speakers of Other Languages will commence on June 18, 1994 and will last for 8 weeks. The program is intensive. (classes are in the morning and meet for 20 hours per week, Saturday - Wednesday).

Those interested please call at the language Center for registration.

Registration begins on Saturday 11.6.1994.

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Christopher: Turkish deal on Iraqi oil is not final yet

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said on Friday that Washington backed Turkey's plan to cleanse an Iraqi oil export pipeline running across its territory, but technical details were still being worked out.

"We have of course agreed in principle that the pipeline could be flushed," he told reporters in Istanbul.

Talks on technical details of the operation were proceeding with Turkey and at the United Nations. "The problem has not been completely resolved," Mr. Christopher added.

He said Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller had stressed the importance of flushing the pipeline when they met on Thursday on the sidelines of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) foreign ministers meeting.

Turkey wants the U.N. Security Council to approve a technical resolution to let it empty, flush and refill the 1,000-kilometres pipeline, disused since Ankara closed it in response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Ankara says its proposals do not violate U.N. trade sanctions against Baghdad because oil from the pipeline would not be sold on the world market and no money would go to Iraq.

Most of the proceeds would go to buying humanitarian goods for the Iraqi people as approved by the United Nations. Some money would flow to a U.N. compensation fund.

for victims of the Gulf crisis caused by Iraq's seizure of Kuwait.

"The proceeds of the flushing would be handled in a way consistent with the U.N. resolution," Mr. Christopher said.

Turkey says it owns 3.6 million barrels of the estimated nine to 12 million barrels of crude trapped in the pipeline running from Iraq's Kirkuk oil fields to a Turkish Mediterranean terminal.

The Iraqi news agency said Wednesday that after the loss of billions of dollars, Turkey this month will resume cross-border trade with Iraq that was halted during the Gulf war.

Sadi Calislar, Turkey's chargé d'affaires in Baghdad, said commercial activities would resume through the Habur border station sometime in the middle of June, according to the news agency. He did not mention a specific month.

Turkey last month said it planned to do this and would operate within the limits of the U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

Ankara had been forced to halt all trade across the border with Iraq because of an escalation last year in guerrilla activities by Kurdish separatists seeking autonomy from Ankara.

A successful military crackdown on the Kurds and increasing economic hardship in Turkey have prompted Ankara to look into ways to resume trading of good allowed under the U.N. embargo.

Hubur is 1,000 kilometres

southeast of Ankara, and sits on the border with Iraq's northwestern corner.

Mr. Calislar also said Turkish authorities were carrying out intensive contacts with members of the U.N. Security Council "in order to reach a mutual understanding of implementing the agreement concerning the reopening of the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline."

Turkey held talks in Baghdad in April about draining the pipeline.

"Kurds want Iraqi unity"

Iraqi Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani pledged Friday that the Kurds would not work against the unity of Iraq, despite his call for a U.N. protectorate.

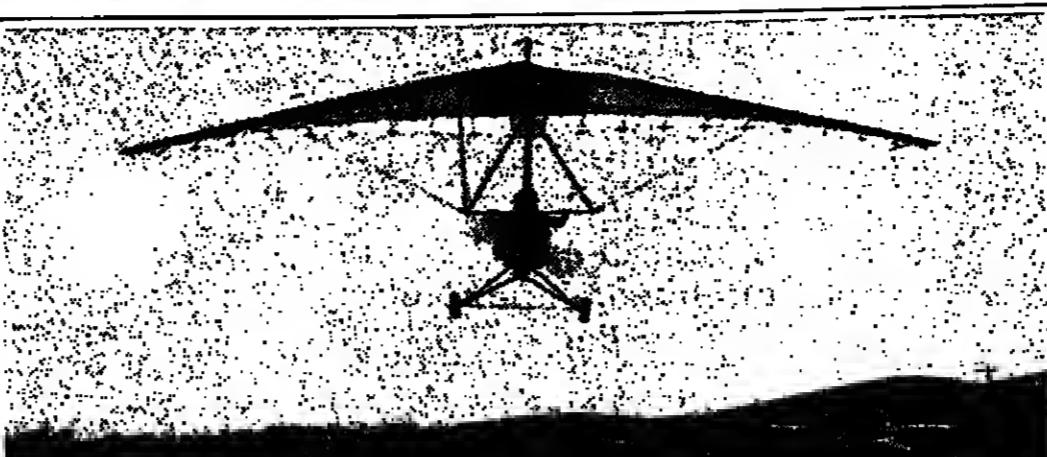
"We endorse and support the unity of the Iraqi people and Iraq's territorial integrity. Our policy in this regard has been firm, consistent and unchanging," he said in a statement received by AFP.

Mr. Barzani said the Kurds aimed for democracy and federalism within a united Iraq. "We strongly believe that the Kurdish issue can best be resolved within the broader Iraqi issue," he said.

On Monday, the head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) proposed in an interview with foreign journalists that northern Iraq be turned into a U.N. protectorate, following a month of war between rival Kurdish factions.

The "50-50 arrangement" of the KDP sharing power with

Continued on page 5



The microlight of British aviators Ben Ashman and Judy Leden (photo by Rama Hussein)

British aviators give Jordanians a taste of microlight flying

By Rama Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein and dozens of citizens Friday took to the skies over Amman in a thrilling aerial experience that will also help cancer research efforts.

Those who came to Marka airport for a chance at a birds-eye view of the capital were taken on a 15-minute cruise in a microlight aviation vehicle, piloted by the British world champion microlight team of Ben Ashman and Judy Leden.

Mr. Ashman and Ms. Leden landed in Jordan on May 30 after a two-week journey from England on a mission they call "Flight for Wood."

Mr. Ashman, who started flying when he was 16, said this volunteer mission was intended to realise the dream of his Jordanian friend Yasmin Saudi who died of lung cancer last February.

Mr. Ashman said he built his first hanglider in 1973 out of wood.

"When I was 16 I flew for the first time, and I never

looked back," Mr. Ashman told the Jordan Times.

A flier for 22 years, Mr. Ashman explained that the microlight, a single-engine open-cabin aircraft weighing 150 kilograms, can carry a payload of 390 kilograms.

On a full tank of gasoline, the microlight can remain in the air for four hours, cruising at 50 miles per hour. It is capable of speeds up to 80 miles and as low as 25 miles per hour.

The wing area on the two-seater craft is 150 square feet, the wing span is 34 feet.

A microlight can cost between JD 10,000 to JD 12,000 in Jordan, exclusive of taxes, said Mr. Ashman.

For Ms. Leden, her best flight was when she soared over the spectacular landscape and colourful rock formations of Wadi Rum.

"The best thing I enjoy is flying over Wadi Rum in the early morning because the light and the scenery are magnificent," said the 35-year-old world champion, who has been flying for 15 years.

"I'll do anything that is open to the elements, feeling the wind on my face and

temperature changes and smelling the air," she said.

She said flying lessons on the microlight included important subjects such as meteorology.

"Weather is the most difficult area and should be examined carefully, and having a good knowledge of reading winds and clouds helps flying tremendously," Ms. Leden said.

According to Ms. Leden and Mr. Ashman, the team is negotiating with local companies on starting a microlight training school for Jordanians in October.

"We've had lots of people who were interested in learning and buying microlights," said.

Mr. Ashman, Ms. Leden and an accompanying team were received by King Hussein last week and were awarded the Al Hussein Gold Medal for Excellence in appreciation of their humanitarian efforts.

Friday's event included an airshow by the Royal Falcons and was attended by Chief Chamberlain Ra'd Ben Zeid, Prince Mir'i'd, Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan and hundreds of spectators.

Jordanians to be among evacuees from Aden

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than 100 Jordanians are expected to be among several hundred foreigners who will be evacuated from Yemen by sea in an operation scheduled to begin on Monday, U.N. officials said.

But the U.N. officials or any Jordanian official could not confirm reports that a group of Jordanian families were being detained in Aden.

"Our information is that the Aden authorities are not imposing any restrictions on any foreigner leaving the country," said a senior U.N. official. "We have been told that more than 100 Jordanians would be among those to be evacuated this week."

Jordanian officials also said they had no details of the so-called Jordanian detainees in Aden or any confirmation that there were such detentions at all.

According to the unconfirmed reports, the "detainees" included women and children held separately from men and that the Jordanian government was trying to secure their release.

While no reason was immediately given for the purported detention, the reports suggested that Aden could be "retaliating" for alleged Jordanian help to the San'a government in the north.

Jordan has categorically denied charges by southern Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Beidh that the Kingdom had sent weapons to San'a to help the northerners in the civil war that broke out on May 4.

The U.N. officials said a ship had set sail from Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania and was expected to dock at Aden late Sunday. The evacuation operations are expected to begin on Monday.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), an inter-governmental agency based in Geneva, issued a statement on Friday confirming the departure of the ship for Aden.

The IOM said about 700 foreigners caught up in the Yemeni civil war were expected to be evacuated aboard the vessel to Djibouti across the Gulf of Aden.

In addition to 115 Jordanians, the ship will carry 193 Palestinians, 59 Iraqis, 47 Russians and three Americans, the IOM said. In addition, Egyptians, Cubans, Filipinos, Indians, Slovaks, Sri Lankans, Sudanese and Tunisians will also be among the evacuees, it said.

Jordan and Egypt have agreed to pay for the air fare for their nationals to come home, the Geneva-based agency said.

"If the boat arrives on Sunday night, we will try to begin the evacuation on Monday morning if the security conditions permit," an IOM spokeswoman said in Geneva. "There is a lot of shelling."

(Continued on page 5)

COLUMN

Vote by Mandela 'niece' did not count — official

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